ANNUAL REPORT

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

1945-1946

Annual Report

Special Collections Reading Room
1945 - 46

To Dr. Stephen A. McCarthy:

As Senior Assistant, I have the honor to present the Annual Report of the Special Collections Reading Room for the academic year ending June 30, 1946.

The division of the Special Collections Department known as the Special Collections Reading Room has functioned this year (1945-46) as a unit, reporting as do the other two divisions, to the Assistant Director in the absence of a Department Head. Cooperation with the Plimpton, Dale and Smith Libraries and with the Typographic Library has been close especially with Typographic in the selection of materials for that library and for the Book Arts Collection. As much as possible of the normal routine has been carried on but no special projects were undertaken.

Gifts - Kebler

Mr. Leonard Kebler of Bronxville, N. Y. presented to the Libraries his collection of 30 first editions of the works of James Fenimore Cooper. The books are in an excellent state of preservation and many are enclosed in leather-backed varicolored slip cases which add to the appearance of the collection as well as serving to protect the books. These comprise about one half of Cooper's published work and include Precaution (1820), his first book, and The Last of the Mohicans (1826) which is perhaps his best known. This generous gift is a valuable addition to the Libraries' holdings in the field of American literature.

Gifts - Coykendall

The 1946 gift of Mr. Frederick Coykendall '95 from his library of English and American literature consists of first editions of the works of 53 authors, chiefly English poets dating from the end of the 19th century. These books

are all in excellent collector's condition and the majority of them are not contained in the Libraries at present. The largest single groups are the works of Laurence Housman (90), Arthur Symons (75) and John Addington Symonds (66). Included also are books by Max Beerbohm, Hilaire Belloc, D. H. Lawrence, Katharine Mansfield, Oscar Wilde and others. The total gift amounts to some 1250 books which will add substantially to the Libraries' resources for the study of modern English poetry.

Gifts - Epstean

Mr. Clarence Epstean has continued to add to the collection on the History and Science of Photography presented to the Libraries by him and his father, Mr. Edward Epstean, in 1932. Fifty-two books and 78 periodicals have been received from this gift. Through the generosity of Mr. Edward Epstean in turning over to the Columbia University Libraries all profits resulting from the sale of his translation of Josef Maria Eder's History of Photography, twenty-seven additional titles, chiefly early technical treatises and missing issues from periodical files, were obtained. In the death of Mr. Edward Epstean, August 8, 1945, the Libraries have lost a good friend and generous donor.

Gifts - Calvert

Sixty-six letters from George Henry Calvert, his mother Rosalie Stier Calvert, his uncle Charles Stier and other members of their family were presented to the Libraries by Bernard Shirley Carter and Caroline Mildred, Countess of Gosford. Calvert, an American writer of the nineteenth century, is described as "a devoted American who gave his life to literature and to the translation of old world culture to the new." A number of letters have been used by Miss Ida Everson in writing her doctoral dissertation on George Henry Calvert.

Gifts - Kilroe

Edwin Patrick Kilroe '04 has from time to time added to the collection of

Tammaniana presented by him in 1942. Two of the most interesting and valuable items received this year are Songs of Tammany (1794) by Ann Hatton and Plan for a Tammanial Tontine Association (1792). Tammany: The Indian Chief, an opera by Ann Hatton, was produced in New York in 1794. The music so far as is known has been lost but some of the verses have been preserved and it is a copy of these which has been obtained. The Plan for a Tammanial Tontine Association (1792) had among its objects the raising of money to build a Tammany Hall. Up to this time the society had met in leased buildings. This campaign however, was not successful and the new building was not erected until 1811. Received also was a file of The Tammany Times a fairly scarce periodical in this field.

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Miss Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College and one of the United States Delegates to the San Francisco conference in 1945, has presented to the Libraries a copy of The Charter of the United Nations Organization and Interim Arrangements. It is bound in white with gold lettering and is inscribed "To My University Virginia Gildersleeve, United States Delegate, San Francisco Conference 1945."

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A group of propaganda pamphlets and broadsides typical of those dropped by American fliers over Japan were presented by the Psychological Warefare Branch of the United States Army forces in the Pacific through Col. Claude E. Hawley. These depict the advantages of the American way of life and urge speedy surrender of Japanese forces.

Gifts - Shotwell

James T. Shotwell, Professor Emeritus, History of International Relations, has presented his papers and correspondence relating to international cultural cooperation and the writing of The Economic and Social History of the World

War. This material for the most part is to be held in confidence.

Purchases

A generous budget has permitted the Special Collections Department to make a number of valuable additions to the various collections. Seventeenth century English Literature was enriched by the acquisition of the second edition (1624) of Burton, Robert - Anatomy of Melancholy. The Department now has the first five editions of this important work. Of this period of literature also were purchased Cowley, Abraham - Poems (1656), Herbert, George - The Temple (1633), and Donne, John - Poems (1669). Among the more modern writers additions have been made to the collections of George Moore, William Butler Yeats, James Joyce and D. H. Lawrence. A number of autographed letters and manuscripts of these authors have been acquired also. Outstanding among these is a typescript of The Strike at Arlingford by George Moore which has copious corrections and additions in Moore's handwriting. Mention should also be made of Jung, Carl H. - A Nation in Distress which depicts in cartoon the sufferings of occupied Holland. (see R 11 form, March 28, 1946); Considerations on the trade and finances of this kingdom ... 1766 was added to the Seligman Collection and Joannes, bp. of Gerona - Domini Ioannis episcopi Gerundensis Paralipomenon Hispaniae ... 1545. Acquisitions in the Book Arts field have been chiefly Latin American Printing.

Selection of Material

In addition to materials purchased from the Special Collections budget, other items purchased on General Library funds are set aside by the Cataloging Department for checking by Special Collections. From these many valuable books and other materials are selected for care in this department. The Bassett Jones Library of Arctic and Antarctic material (Libris Polaris) was

checked by the senior assistant and about 275 books plus autograph letters, manuscripts and other material needing the care of the Special Collections Department were set aside for the cataloging there. The remainder was added to the General Library. Transfers of books have been made from time to time from the General Library stacks upon the recommendation of Special Collections or other members of the staff and faculty.

Members of the staff at various times during the year have visited private libraries which were being offered for sale to examine them with a view to recommending them for purchase if desireable. Those viewed this year were the Stevenson Collection (Old Maps); the Oko Collection of Spinoza's Works and the literary manuscripts and correspondence of Ripley Hitchcock. Reports were submitted to Dr. Tauber or Dr. McCarthy.

Technical Services

Catalogued this year from previous gifts of Mr. Frederick Coykendall were books by Thomas Moore, John Masefield, Conrad Aiken, Grace Conkling and Countee Cullen. Mr. Kebler's gift of first editions of James Fenimore Cooper has been catalogued as have the books from the library of William R. Shepherd and Bassett Jones (Libris Polaris). Work on the nineteenth century material in the Seligman Collection has proceeded very slowly this year, averaging about 20 books catalogued a month. No progress has been made in cataloging the earlier books. There remain still several collections uncatalogued. Of these two The Kilroe Collection of Tammaniana and the Harris Oliphant Collection have been recorded by author in the "in process" file in the Acquisition Department, as have titles included in the Seligman Library which were published after 1900.

122 autographed letters and manuscripts were catalogued by the staff of Special Collections; those which form a part of the Libris Polaris Collection were recorded and arranged.

Routine binding has been accomplished this year but due to lack of materials and skilled services much of the work needed to be done in Special Collections has had to be set aside until these are available.

Use of the Reading Room

Classes from the School of Library Service and the English Department met in Special Collections to examine and make use of some of the valuable books housed here. Special cataloging problems were provided for students in the Advanced Cataloging course; the class in the History of Books and Printing visited room 105 for a demonstration of printing by hand press. Scholars and research workers have made frequent use of the Epstean and Parsons Print Collections. Seventeenth and eighteenth century material in the Seligman Collection has been used extensively this year by students preparing doctoral dissertations. When these books are fully catalogued their usefulness will be considerably extended. The Pulitzer prize awards have been consulted on a number of occasions chiefly by members of the Associated Press who are preparing a series of articles about outstanding reporters. In fact the last few months have seen a marked increase in the use of all the materials in Special Collections as compared with the war years.

Loans

Books and broadsides by and about Jonathan Swift were sent to the Grolier Club from the Seligman Collection for exhibition. Marshall Fields, Chicago, borrowed eight French Underground publications for exhibition. One carton of manuscripts from the Messages and Papers of the Presidents was lent to Lt. Lord in Washington. Cooper Union Library borrowed a type-casting machine

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Extensive shifting of books has been accomplished this year in order to obtain much needed room for growing sections. The entire "B" collection was relocated placing folio volumes along the bottom shelves, giving extra space for the expansion of normal sized books and placing heavy volumes in more accessible positions. This is only a temporary expedient however, as many of the collections are expanding rapidly and will soon need further shelving space. Some shelf reading has been done in the "B" collection also. It has been possible to resume systematic oiling of leather bound books, and, although this work is much in arrears, considerable progress has been made during the year. Periodic oiling preserves the leather and is especially important for books shelved in non-air conditioned stacks.

A mimeographed notice regarding restrictions on the use of manuscripts was prepared and is handed to each reader requesting to see any material in manuscript. It reads as follows:

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Special Collections Department

No manuscript or part thereof may be copied by hand or reproduced by mechanical or photographic means without the permission of the Director of Libraries.

Carl. M. White
Director of Libraries

Statistics

The statistics this year show the increase in the use of all the facilities of Special Collections that has been evident from day to day. The practice of closing the Reading Room between 12 and 1 o'clock has seemed a necessary measure with a limited staff. However in view of the increase in the use of Special Collections, if a full staff can be maintained, the 9-5 schedule

should be resumed.

Statistics compiled from the monthly reports of the Special Collections Reading Room 1945/46.

	I,1c	I,2c	II,2	IV,2	Registered Readers
July, 1945	482	20	0	54	171
August	341	8	0	66	76
September	70	0	0	9	25
October	148	0	0	42	90
November	221	0	0	32	103
December	350	0	13	44	133
January, 1946	389	1	0	28	128
February	177	0	0	33	85
March	208	0	0	58	140
April	190	0	2	68	121
May	228	8	3	88	103
June	188	1	0	16	69
Total	2992	38	18	538	1244

A comparison by years since 1942/43

1942/43	3302	69	21	1004	1146
1943/44	2384	37	8	438	984
1944/45	2739	15	1	422	830
1945/46	2992	38	18	538	1244

Statistics - Technical services

	A.	B.	C.	D(1)	D(2)
1943/44	1015	1799	124	354	87
1944/45	1144	937	91	169	25
1945/46	732	1839	122	110	23

A. - Books sent to Cataloging Department.
B.- Books for which cards have been received from the cataloging Department.
C. - Catalogued by Special Collections (Manuscripts and broadsides).
D. - Binding (1) Sent to Binding Department.
(2) Temporary tie-in-boards.

Exhibitions The Exhibition area in Low Memorial Library, which has previously been under the care of Special Collections, was transferred for the year 1945/46 to a University Committee. Exhibitions in Butler Library (Lobby and 3rd floor) were prepared and set up, as in the past, by the staff of the Special Collections Reading Room.

Exhibitions Fifty Books

The exhibition Fifty Books of the Year selected by a committee of the American Institute of Graphic Arts was shown on the third floor of the Butler Library during July and August. This has been an annual event for several years and is of great interest to the summer session students. Shown at this same time was travelling exhibit set up by Time and Life Magazines depicting the printing of foreign editions of these magazines.

Exhibitions Medical Library

Treasures from the Medical Library were exhibited during the fall months on the third floor of Butler Library. These served not only to call attention of students to the Medical Library itself, since it is off campus, but to convey the information that Medical Library books are being listed in the General Catalog in Butler Library.

Exhibitions Walter Crane

An exhibition of first editions and original drawings of Walter Crane was lent for exhibit during January and February 1946 by Mrs. George W. Patterson (Catherine Tinker) of 40 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Among the many interesting and unusual pieces in this collection are 16 original drawings for Hawthorne's Wonder Tales, three unpublished books of drawings done for his children, and a number of the scarce "toy" books, which are among Crane's first work.

Exhibitions Cooper

The gift of Mr. Leonard Kebler of Bronxville of 30 first editions of the works of James Fenimore Cooper was placed on exhibit in Butler Library during April and May 1946. A brief commentary on Cooper's works in general, with added comments on the volumes on exhibition, was prepared and printed for distribution.

Exhibitions Bookpapers

Specimens of Decorated Book Papers were exhibited in June 1946 with examples showing the various uses of such papers in book making. Shown also

were steps in making marbled papers and various blocks for printing. Designs by Douglas Cockerell, Rosamund Loring and Peter Frank were included as well as some of earlier periods.

Exhibitions Seligman

On the occasion of the meeting of the Economic History Association at the Men's Faculty Club, December 27th, 1945, an exhibition of material from the Seligman Collection was prepared. Books dealing with some of the inventions which have affected the economic world were displayed.

Exhibitions Recent Acquisitions ... etc.

Two flat cases in the lobby of Butler Library were used chiefly to show new acquisitions such as The Charter of the United Nations, French and German chapbooks, propaganda pamphlets dropped over Japan by United States airmen, and miscellaneous additions to the various collections. Other lobby cases displayed interesting items from "Books across the sea", newspapers published in liberated Germany, and Columbia University Press books of interest to the Libraries. The Trollopes by Lucy Stebbins, Columbia University Press, 1945, was shown with some of the first editions of the Trollopes' works which are in the Libraries.

Personnel

The resignation of both the clerical and student assistants during July and August 1945, brought to Special Collections Miss Ramona Cerda and Mrs. Solidelle Wasser. These assistants have proven themselves capable, intelligent and cooperative and have contributed materially to the smooth functioning of the Reading Room Service. In addition Mrs. Wasser has assisted in the exhibition work and with the cataloging of manuscripts. Miss Cerda has continued work upon the Benjamin Print Collection and is checking and adding to the Bookplate Collection.

Miss Anna G. Cushing, secretary, has, in addition to her work for this

department, served as secretary to Mr. Price (Law Library) and to Mr. Angell (Music Library). She has been of great assistance to me both in her secretarial capacity and in aiding with service to readers. She has typed the labels for exhibitions. Her time during the year has been divided as follows:

Stenographic and typing work for the Department	28%
Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Price	2?%
Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Angell	4%
Stenographic and typing work for Miss Frick	3%
Stenographic and typing work for exhibitions: labels, letters, reports	8%
Special stenographic work for Library Office	2%
Other Office, library and notarizing work	30%
	100%

Number of papers notarized 190.

Housing

The major problem in the care and servicing of the books and materials through the Special Collections Reading Room remains in the housing conditions. Non-air conditioned stack area and transportation without elevator or book lift from floor to floor increase the wear and tear considerably. There is need also for space in connection with Special Collections where a scholar can use his typewriter. Frequent requests are made for this service.

Projects for the coming

In his report for 1944/45 Mr. Adams designated nine projects for consideration for the ensuing year. (See Annual Report - Special Collections 1944-45 p. 21). Due to a variety of conditions little progress has been made on any of these. I would, therefore, recommend again their accomplishment as important for 1946/47.

It has been my great privilege this year, Dr. McCarthy, to be in charge, under your direction, of the Special Collections Reading Room. I should

like to express my gratitude to the Library Administration for making possible the oppportunities and experience that my duties and position have brought, and to thank you, especially, for all your help and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice H. Bonnell
Senior Assistant
Special Collections

C O P Y Typographic Annual Report 1945/6

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Annual ~~Monthly~~ Statistical Report for 1945/6

Department Typographic Library Signature

PART A - USE OF BOOKS .

I. Books		
1. Use in building		
a. Reserved		
b. Non-Reserved	549	
c. Total		549
2. Circulation		
a. Reserved		
b. Non-Reserved	5	
c. Total		5
II. Interlibrary Loan (Local)		
1. Number of borrowing libraries		
2. Number of books borrowed		
III. Total of I, 1c and 2c and II, 2		554
IV. Intramural Library Loan		
1. Number of department libraries borrowing	1	
2. Number of books borrowed		3

(This circulation is not included in the item III total. Standard definitions of terms, stated in Director's Memorandum 45-17, should be carefully followed in making up reports.)

PART B - NOTES AND COMMENTS

Readers totaled 158.

Visitors " 30.

Use of the library is detailed in the monthly statistical reports. The same schedule of hours was followed as for 1944/45, that is, 2:00-4:00 Monday through Friday, and by appointment when necessary. The time spent in the library totaled 380 hours, or 9.8 weeks of 38½ hours a week. During intersessions the library was open by appointment only, and while the staff member was on vacation (August 24-September 6, September 19-22, December 18-31) Miss Bonnell agreed to service the collection. Fortunately the need for her aid did not arise.

Acquisitions by gift, purchase and transfer totaled 156 pieces as follows:

Purchase	15 v.		
Gifts and transfer	141 pieces -	unb. serials	85
		bound books	5
		pamphlets	48
		miscellaneous	3

Ralph Green of Chicago, who has made valuable contributions to the study of the early hand press, sent blueprints of his chart of the platen sizes of hand presses. George Salomon sent specimens and calendar-blotters of the Genzsch & Heyse type foundry in Hamburg, Germany, and Dr. Lehmann-Haupt presented a printer's specimen book issued by August Pries of Leipzig. The International Association of Printing House Craftsmen filled gaps in the set of Share your knowledge review in the library and continues to send current issues. The periodical is valuable as the official organ of a strong

and progressive organization of printers, as well as for its contents, as for example the Index to graphic arts periodical literature which appeared first in the ... Review and then as a supplement to it before it was able to start an independent existence. Gifts of back issues of various periodicals in the field of the graphic arts were received from Melvin Loos, University Printer, and from Mrs. Bullen, American Type Founders, and Alfred H. Lane. William Colgate of Weston, Ontario, sent an offprint of his study of "A Canadian printer's label of the eighteenth century," and the Graphic Arts Industries of Minneapolis sent "Facts for veterans and others about starting a printing business. American Type Founders, General Printing Ink Corporation, and other organizations continue to send their publications to the library.

Exhibitions. Miss Frick drew on the library for her exhibitions in the cases of the School of Library Service. The permanent exhibition on the history of typefounding seems to meet the needs of visitors so well that it remains in place in Room 655. An exhibition of the work of Bruce Rogers was arranged in the cases in Room 653 by Miss Marion Hansen at the end of July, and it has been of such interest that until a specific occasion for changing it arises, it will be left in place. The exhibitions in Room 654 have as themes Benjamin Franklin as typefounder, and a demonstration of type making.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Monthly Statistical Report for_____194_____

Department_____Signature_____

PART A - USE OF BOOKS

I. Books
  1. Use in building
    a. Reserved .....
    b. Non-Reserved .....
    c. Total .....
  2. Circulation
    a. Reserved .....
    b. Non-Reserved .....
    c. Total .....

II. Interlibrary Loan (Local)
  1. Number of borrowing libraries .....
  2. Number of books borrowed .....

III. Total of I, 1c and 2c and II, 2 .....

IV. Intramural Library Loan
  1. Number of department libraries borrowing
  2. Number of books borrowed .....

(This circulation is not included in the item III total. Standard definitions of terms, stated in Director's Memorandum 45-17, should be carefully followed in making up reports.)

PART B - NOTES AND COMMENTS

(Use other side, if necessary)

should be resumed.

Statistics compiled from the monthly reports of the Special Collections Reading Room 1945/46.

	I,1c	I,3c	II,2	IV,2	Registered Readers
July, 1945	482	20	0	54	171
August	341	8	0	66	76
September	70	0	0	9	25
October	148	0	0	42	90
November	221	0	0	32	103
December	350	0	13	44	133
January, 1946	389	1	0	28	128
February	177	0	0	33	88
March	208	0	0	58	140
April	190	0	2	68	121
May	228	8	3	88	103
June	188	1	0	16	69
Total	2992	38	18	538	1244

A comparison by years since 1942/43

1942/43	3302	69	21	1004	1146
1943/44	2384	57	8	438	984
1944/45	2739	15	1	422	830
1945/46	2992	38	18	538	1244

Statistics - Technical services

	A.	B.	C.	D(1)	D(2)
1943/44	1018	1734	124	394	57
1944/45	1144	937	91	164	25
1945/46	732	1838	122	110	23

A. - Books sent to Cataloging Department.
B.- Books for which cards have been received from the cataloging Department.
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(2) Temporary tie-in-boards.

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The exhibition Fifty Books of the Year selected by a committee of the American Institute of Graphic Arts was shown on the third floor of the Butler Library during July and August. This has been an annual event for several years and is of great interest to the summer session students. Shown at this same time was travelling exhibit set up by Time and Life Magazines depicting the printing of foreign editions of these magazines.

Exhibitions Medical Library

Treasures from the Medical Library were exhibited during the fall months on the third floor of Butler Library. These served not only to call attention of students to the Medical Library itself, since it is off campus, but to convey the information that Medical Library books are being listed in the General Catalog in Butler Library.

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The gift of Mr. Leonard Kebler of Bronxville of 30 first editions of the works of James Fenimore Cooper was placed on exhibit in Butler Library during April and May 1946. A brief commentary on Cooper's works in general, with added comments on the volumes on exhibition, was prepared and printed for distribution.

Exhibitions Bookpapers

Specimens of Decorated Book Papers were exhibited in June 1946 with examples showing the various uses of such papers in book making. Shown also

were steps in making marbled papers and various blocks for printing. Designs by Douglas Cockerell, Rosamund Loring and Peter Frank were included as well as some of earlier periods.

Exhibitions Seligman

On the occasion of the meeting of the Economic History Association at the Men's Faculty Club, December 27th, 1945, an exhibition of material from the Seligman Collection was prepared. Books dealing with some of the inventions which have affected the economic world were displayed.

Exhibitions Recent Acquisitions ... etc.

Two flat cases in the lobby of Butler Library were used chiefly to show new acquisitions such as The Charter of the United Nations, French and German chapbooks, propaganda pamphlets dropped over Japan by United States airmen, and miscellaneous additions to the various collections. Other lobby cases displayed interesting items from "Books across the sea", newspapers published in liberated Germany, and Columbia University Press books of interest to the Libraries. The Trollopes by Lucy Stebbins, Columbia University Press, 1945, was shown with some of the first editions of the Trollopes' works which are in the Libraries.

Personnel

The resignation of both the clerical and student assistants during July and August 1945, brought to Special Collections Miss Ramona Cerda and Mrs. Solidelle Wasser. These assistants have proven themselves capable, intelligent and cooperative and have contributed materially to the smooth functioning of the Reading Room Service. In addition Mrs. Wasser has assisted in the exhibition work and with the cataloging of manuscripts. Miss Cerda has continued work upon the Benjamin Print Collection and is checking and adding to the Bookplate Collection.

Miss Anne Q. Cushing, secretary, has, in addition to her work for this

department, served as secretary to Mr. Price (Law Library) and to Mr. Angell (Music Library). She has been of great assistance to me both in her secretarial capacity and in aiding with service to readers. She has typed the labels for exhibitions. Her time during the year has been divided as follows:

Stenographic and typing work for the Department	29%
Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Price	27%
Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Angell	4%
Stenographic and typing work for Miss Frick	3%
Stenographic and typing work for exhibitions: labels, letters, reports	5%
Special stenographic work for Library Office	2%
Other Office, library and notarizing work	30%
	100%

Number of papers notarized 190.

Housing

The major problem in the care and servicing of the books and materials through the Special Collections Reading Room remains in the housing conditions. Non-air conditioned stack area and transportation without elevator or book lift from floor to floor increase the wear and tear considerably. There is need also for space in connection with Special Collections where a scholar can use his typewriter. Frequent requests are made for this service.

Projects for the coming

In his report for 1944/45 Mr. Adams designated nine projects for consideration for the ensuing year. (See Annual Report - Special Collections 1944-45 p. 21). Due to a variety of conditions little progress has been made on any of these. I would, therefore, recommend again their accomplishment as important for 1946/47.

It has been my great privilege this year, Dr. McCarthy, to be in charge, under your direction, of the Special Collections Reading Room. I should

like to express my gratitude to the Library Administration for making possible the oppportunities and experience that my duties and position have brought, and to thank you, especially, for all your help and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice H. Konnell
Senior Assistant
Special Collections

Annual Report

Special Collections Reading Room
1945 - 46

To Dr. Stephen A. McCarthy:

As Senior Assistant, I have the honor to present the Annual Report of the Special Collections Reading Room for the academic year ending June 30, 1946.

The division of the Special Collections Department known as the Special Collections Reading Room has functioned this year (1945-46) as a unit, reporting as do the other two divisions, to the Assistant Director in the absence of a Department Head. Cooperation with the Plimpton, Dale and Smith Libraries and with the Typographic Library has been close especially with Typographic in the selection of materials for that library and for the Book Arts Collection. As much as possible of the normal routine has been carried on but no special projects were undertaken.

Gifts - Kebler

Mr. Leonard Kebler of Bronxville, N. Y. presented to the Libraries his collection of 30 first editions of the works of James Fenimore Cooper. The books are in an excellent state of preservation and many are enclosed in leather-backed varicolored slip cases which add to the appearance of the collection as well as serving to protect the books. These comprise about one half of Cooper's published work and include Precaution (1820), his first book, and The Last of the Mohicans (1826) which is perhaps his best known. This generous gift is a valuable addition to the Libraries' holdings in the field of American literature.

Gifts - Coykendall

The 1946 gift of Mr. Frederick Coykendall '95 from his library of English and American literature consists of first editions of the works of 53 authors, chiefly English poets dating from the end of the 19th century. These books

are all in excellent collector's condition and the majority of them are not contained in the Libraries at present. The largest single groups are the works of Laurence Housman (90), Arthur Symons (75) and John Addington Symonds (66). Included also are books by Max Beerbohm, Hilaire Belloc, D. H. Lawrence, Katharine Mansfield, Oscar Wilde and others. The total gift amounts to some 1250 books which will add substantially to the Libraries' resources for the study of modern English poetry.

Gifts - Epstean

Mr. Clarence Epstean has continued to add to the collection on the History and Science of Photography presented to the Libraries by him and his father, Mr. Edward Epstean, in 1932. Fifty-two books and 78 periodicals have been received from this gift. Through the generosity of Mr. Edward Epstean in turning over to the Columbia University Libraries all profits resulting from the sale of his translation of Josef Maria Eder's History of Photography, twenty-seven additional titles, chiefly early technical treatises and missing issues from periodical files, were obtained. In the death of Mr. Edward Epstean, August 8, 1945, the Libraries have lost a good friend and generous donor.

Gifts - Calvert

Sixty-six letters from George Henry Calvert, his mother Rosalie Stier Calvert, his uncle Charles Stier and other members of their family were presented to the Libraries by Bernard Shirley Carter and Caroline Mildred, Countess of Gosford. Calvert, an American writer of the nineteenth century, is described as "a devoted American who gave his life to literature and to the translation of old world culture to the new." A number of the letters have been used by Miss Ida Everson in writing her doctoral dissertation on George Henry Calvert.

Gifts - Kilroe

Edwin Patrick Kilroe '04 has from time to time added to the collection of

Tammaniana presented by him in 1942. Two of the most interesting and valuable items received this year are Songs of Tammany (1794) by ~~Julia~~ Ann Hatton and Plan for a Tammanial Tontine Association (1792). Tammany: The Indian Chief, an opera by ~~Julia~~ Ann Hatton, was produced in New York in 1794. The music so far as is known has been lost but some of the verses have been preserved and it is a copy of these which has been obtained. The Plan for a Tammanial Tontine Association (1792) had among its objects the raising of money to build a Tammany Hall. Up to this time the society had met in leased buildings. This campaign however, was not successful and the new building was not erected until 1811. Received also was a file of The Tammany Times a fairly scarce periodical in this field.

Gifts Gildersleeve

Miss Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College and one of the United States Delegates to the San Francisco conference in 1945, has presented to the Libraries a copy of The Charter of the United Nations Organization and Interim Arrangements. It is bound in white with gold lettering and is inscribed "To My University Virginia Gildersleeve, United States Delegate, San Francisco Conference 1945." ~~It was printed at the University of California Press and is No. of copies.~~

Gifts Hawley

A group of propaganda pamphlets and broadsides typical of those dropped by American fliers over Japan were presented by the Psychological Warfare Branch of the United States Army forces in the Pacific through Lt. Col. Claude E. Hawley. These depict the advantages of the American way of life and urge speedy surrender of Japanese forces.

Gifts - Shotwell

James T. Shotwell, Professor Emeritus, History of International Relations, has presented his papers and correspondence relating to international cultural

cooperation and the writing of The Economic and Social History of the World War. This material for the most part is to be held in confidence.

Purchases

A generous budget has permitted the Special Collections Department to make a number of valuable additions to the various collections. Seventeenth century English literature was enriched by the acquisition of the 2nd edition (1624) of Burton, Robert - Anatomy of Melancholy. The Department now has the first five editions of this important work. Of this period of literature also were purchased Cowley, Abraham - Poems (1656), Herbert, George - The Temple (1633), and Donne, John - Poems (1669). Among the more modern writers additions have been made to the collections of George Moore, William Butler Yeats, James Joyce and D. H. Lawrence. A number of autograph letters and manuscripts of these authors have been acquired also. Outstanding among these is a typescript of The Strike At Arlingford by George Moore which has copious corrections and additions in Moore's handwriting. Mention should also be made of Jung, Carl H. - A Nation in Distress which depicts in cartoon the sufferings of occupied Holland. (see R 11 form, March 28, 1946); Considerations on the trade and finances of this kingdom ... 1766 added to the Seligman Collection and [Juannes, bp of Margarit, Joao Moles - ... Epsicopige: Gerundensis paralipomenon Hispaniae ... 1545.] Acquisitions in the Book Arts field have been chiefly Latin American printing.

Selection of Materials

In addition to materials purchased from the Special Collections budget, other items purchased on General Library funds are set aside by the Cataloging Department for checking by Special Collections. From these many valuable books and other materials are selected for care in this department. The Bassett Jones Library of Arctic and Antarctic material (Libris Polaris) was

checked by the ~~assistant-in-charge~~ senior assistant and about 275 books plus autograph letters, manuscripts and other material needing the care of the Special Collections Department were set aside for cataloging there. The remainder was added to the General Library. Transfers of books have been made from time to time from the General Library stacks upon the recommendation of Special Collections or other members of the staff and faculty.

Members of the staff at various times during the year have visited private libraries which were being offered for sale to examine them with a view to recommending them for purchase if desireable. Those viewed this year were the Stevenson Collection (Old Maps); the Oko Collection of Spinoza's Works and the literary manuscripts and correspondence of Ripley Hitchcock. Reports were submitted to Dr. Tauber or Dr. McCarthy.

Technical Services

Catalogued this year from ~~the~~ previous gifts of Mr. Frederick Coykendall were books by Thomas Moore, John Masefield, Conrad Aiken, Grace Conkling and Countee Cullen. Mr. Kebler's gift of first editions of James Fenimore Cooper has been catalogued as have the books from the library of William R. Shepherd and Bassett Jones (Libris Polaris). Work on the nineteenth century material in the Seligman Collection has proceeded very slowly this year, averaging about 20 books catalogued a month. No progress has been made in cataloging the earlier books. There remain still several collections uncatalogued. Of these two The Kilroe Collection of Tammaniana and the Harris Oliphant Collection have been recorded by author in the "in process" file in the Acquisition Department, as have titles included in the Seligman Library which were published after 1900.

122 autograph letters and manuscripts were catalogued by the staff of Special Collections; those which form a part of the Libris Polaris Collection were recorded and arranged.

Routine binding has been accomplished this year but due to lack of materials and skilled services much of the work needed to be done in Special Collections has had to be set aside until these are available.

Use of the Reading Room

Classes from the School of Library Service and the English Department met in Special Collections to examine and make use of some of the valuable books housed here. Special cataloging problems were provided for students in the Advanced Cataloging course; the class in the History of Books and Printing visited room 105 for a demonstration of printing by hand press. Scholars and research workers have made frequent use of the Epstean and Parsons Print Collections. Seventeenth and eighteenth century material in the Seligman Collection has been used extensively this year by students preparing doctoral dissertations. When these books are fully catalogued their usefulness will be considerably extended. The Pulitzer prize awards have been consulted on a number of occasions chiefly by members of the Associated Press who are preparing a series of articles about outstanding reporters. In fact the last few months have seen a marked increase in the use of all the materials in Special Collections as compared with the war years.

Loans

Books and broadsides by and about Jonathan Swift were sent to the Grolier Club from the Seligman Collection for exhibition. Marshall Fields, Chicago, borrowed eight French Underground publications for exhibition. One carton of manuscripts from the Messages and Papers of the Presidents was lent to Lt. Lord in Washington. Cooper Union Library borrowed a type-casting machine for demonstration purposes.

Care of Materials

Extensive shifting of books has been accomplished this year in order to obtain much needed room for growing sections. The entire "B" collection was relocated placing folio volumes along the bottom shelves, giving extra space

for the expansion of normal sized books and placing heavy volumes in more accessible positions. This is only a temporary expedient however, as many of the collections are expanding rapidly and will soon need further shelving space. Some shelf reading has been done in the "B" collection also. It has been possible to resume systematic oiling of leather bound books, and, although this work is much in arrears, considerable progress has been made during the year. Periodic oiling preserves the leather and is especially important for books shelved in non-air conditioned stacks.

A mimeographed notice regarding restrictions on the use of manuscripts was prepared and is handed to each reader requesting to see any material in manuscript. It reads as follows:

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Special Collections Department

No manuscript or part thereof may be copied by hand or reproduced by mechanical or photographic means without the permission of the Director of Libraries.

Carl M. White
Director of Libraries

Statistics The statistics this year show the increase in the use of all the facilities of Special Collections that has been evident from day to day. The practice of closing the Reading Room between 12 and 1 o'clock has seemed a necessary measure with a limited staff. However, in view of the increase in the use of Special Collections, if a full staff can be maintained, the 9-5 schedule should be resumed.

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several years and is of great interest to the summer session students. Shown at this same time was a travelling exhibit set up by Time and Life Magazines depicting the printing of foreign editions of these magazines

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Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Price 27%
Stenographic and typing work for Mr. Angell 4%

Stenographic and typing work for Miss Frick 3%
Stenographic and typing work for exhibitions:
labels, letters, reports 5%
Special stenographic work for Library Office 2%
Other Office, library and notarizing work 30%
100%

Number of papers notarized 190

Housing

The major problem in the care and ser icing of the books and materials through the Special Collections Reading Room remains the housing conditions. Non-air conditioned stack area and transportation without elevator or book lift from floor to floor increase the wear and tear considerably. There is need also for space in connection with Special Collections where a scholar can use his typewriter. Frequent requests are made for this service.

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In his report for 1944/45 Mr. Adams designated nine projects for consideration for the ensuing year. (See Annual Report - Special Collections 1944-45 p.21). Due to a variety of conditions little progress has been made on any of these. I would, therefore, recommend again their accomplishment as important for 1946/47.

It has been my great privilege this year, Dr. McCarthy, to be in charge, under your direction, of the Special Collections Reading Room. I should like to express my gratitude to the Library Administration for making possible the opportunities and experience that my duties and position have brought, and to thank you, especially, for all your help and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice H. Bonnell
Senior Assistant
Special Collections

PLIMPTON, SMITH AND DALE LIBRARIES

July 1, 1945 - June 30, 1946

Dr. Stephen A. McCarthy

Acting Head of Special Collections

As Curator of the Plimpton, Smith and Dale Libraries I have the honor to present the following report for the academic year ending June 30, 1946.

Staff

Mr. Ives devoted most of his time to detailed analysis of the western manuscripts in the Plimpton Collection continuing his work of previous years. However, in April, upon receipt of his resignation (to take effect September 1) it was felt that a briefer type of description could well be substituted in order that he might complete the catalogue of manuscripts before he leaves the Library. With this listing finished it will be possible for a less skillful paleographer to build up the supplementary files so necessary to facilitate the study of manuscripts.

January 1 saw the beginning of an exchange period with the Library of Congress in which Miss Schild went there to catalogue their Hungarian books and Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce took her place in our organization. Unfortunately for both these collections and the Columbia University Library system as a whole, Miss Schild resigned in June in favor of the Congressional Library. Unusually well equipped in knowledge of languages, in intellectual ability and in cultural background she has been a splendid library assistant.

In the six months of this year that Miss Schild was here she was able to complete the cataloguing of most of the English and continental writing master's copy-books. There remain to be

catalogued some 600 American books, which constitute about half of the calligraphy collection. It is to be regretted that, with Miss Schild's resignation, the description of the writing-books which she had intended to write will have to await another's pen. There is no more thorough way of exploring the literature of a subject than to catalogue it carefully - the study of existing bibliographies, the visits to neighboring collections in the field, the comparing of editions and the careful examination of hundreds of books gives the cataloguer a rare opportunity to master the subject in question - and thus to give scholarly aid in reference work and to patrons. One of the advantages of the set-up of these collections is that each staff member has combined three functions of a librarian - cataloguing, reference work and service to readers.

Mrs. Pierce was able to adapt herself very quickly to our cataloguing practices. She was well along in the cataloguing of the geography collection when her work was interrupted in order that she might assist Mr. Ives with the cataloguing of the western manuscripts in such mechanical details as numbering and counting leaves as well as authority work for authors' names. While there is no doubt that it is more important that the cataloguing of manuscripts be completed than that the geography collection should be finished it is a disappointment that she could not complete the unit of work assigned to her - chosen because it is of a size that she could have finished in the time she was with the Library. Mrs. Pierce was a reliable assistant, did her work accurately and quickly and adapted herself very well

to our organization.

Exhibitions

Because of staff changes this year it did not seem wise to take time to set up a new exhibition especially as the one on display (history of writing and history of mathematics) is devoted to two of our most important and most popular subjects. The disadvantage of keeping up an exhibition overlong is, of course, the continued exposure to light of the opened book. Whenever possible, pages were turned at intervals to relieve this condition.

Class Visits

One of the most important services rendered by these collections is their use by various teachers as a part of class instruction. Professor Campbell, of the Department of English, brought his class to observe kinds of hands in use in Shakespeare's day. Mr. Ives showed them some of the Elizabethan documents, pointing out peculiarities in the script and giving the students valuable pointers to aid in transcribing such material. They were also shown our famous unique copy of the earliest known writing book issued in England - Beauchesne's A booke containing divers sortes of hands (London, 1570). Professor Campbell was so impressed with the value of this work for learning to transcribe Elizabethan handwriting that he obtained photostat copies of typical pages so that each student could have material at hand to study.

On two successive days Professor Kristeller held the seminar in Renaissance philosophy in these quarters to hear Mr. Ives lecture on the development of Latin writing from antiquity

to the thirteenth century, illustrating his talks with specimens from the collections (facsimiles for the early period but original pieces for the latter half).

Professor Ayres' graduate class in sixteenth century English literature met here for a sort of "gallery talk" by Professor Lehmann-Haupt on various items in the exhibition cases which were of interest to the class as background material for the period.

By far the largest groups were three classes interested in the history of mathematics, each numbering more than fifty students. Two of these classes were in the summer session (Professor Reeves' "Teaching of Mathematics" and Dr. Lozar's "History of Mathematics")while the third was an evening class of Dr. Lozar's which met in the Library for a two-hour session. To provide for such large groups folding chairs were set up in one of the alcoves between the exhibition cases, before which one of the long tables was placed to display the books under discussion. For these classes the Curator showed outstanding books in the history of mathematics, tracing the development of arithmetic, geometry and algebra by means of contemporary manuscripts and printed books. Also described were some of the interesting association items in which these collections are so rich. This was followed by a tour of those exhibition cases which contain pertinent items. It is gratifying to see again an intense and vital interest in the history of mathematics which the revival of a course in the subject has inaugurated. Dr. Lozar is making the visits to these collections an integral part of his course -

which is just the way that Professor Smith and Mr. Plimpton wanted their treasures to be utilized.

Readers

One of the Library's regular patrons is a student who is making extensive use of our Americana to develop her doctor's thesis, "Nationalism in American school books".

Another regular patron, Dr. Edward Rosen, one of the outstanding Copernicus scholars of the country, is utilizing our three famous editions of the De Revolutionibus Orbium Colestium in making a translation into English of that famous classic in astronomy.

Outstanding out-of-town scholars who made several visits to this Library are Professor R. C. Archibald of Brown University, Professor L. C. Karpinski of Michigan University and Professor Otto Neugebauer of the Institute for Advanced Study.

Several scholars who wrote articles for the volume to be published as a memorial to Professor Smith obtained their material from these collections. The book (now in page-proof) will be illustrated with some of the photographs of Professor Smith which are in this Library. The Curator's article "The first arithmetic printed in Portugal" is based on a purchase made for Rara Arithmetica two years ago

Acquisitions

Funds left by Professor Smith for the enlargement of his Library became available for use this year. With this money, and allocations from the University Libraries for purchasing items for the Plimpton Collection, some eighty books were purchased. About thirty more volumes were acquired by gift. The latter included an Indic manuscript on palm leaves written in the beautiful Burmese

script, the gift of Professor George Allen.

The purchases included three additions to Rara Arithmetica (arithmetics printed before 1601), a surprising number for one year considering the scarcity of such items; six books on mathematical instruments to enrich a large and often used collection, and five calligraphy books, one of which is an interesting Spanish manuscript. The Newton collection was augmented by eleven purchased items as well as the transfer of some thirty titles from various parts of the University Libraries. With its books, autographs, portraits and medals the Newton collection is one of the finest in the United States.

Needs

1) Provision for proper physical care of books, manuscripts and documents. (Heat and dryness both very bad)
2) Repair of electric fan (now three years defunct) to bring air into "Vault".
3) Oiling of leather bindings.
4) Expert repair of bindings.
5) Adequate lighting for exhibition cases, readers and staff.
6) Arrangement, listing and plan of disposal of the large number of duplicates.
7) System of bookplates for
   a. Gifts from other than original donors.
   b. Transfers from other parts of the University Libraries.
   c. Purchases.
      1. From University funds.
      2. From bequests of original donor.

8) Suitable labels for portraits hung in Room 210.

9) Provision for repair of frames for material (manuscript leaves and portraits) owned by Mrs. Plimpton.

10) Adequate clerical help. There has been practically no assistance of this kind for several years. As a consequence arrangement of files, shelf labels, re-shelving and other clerical jobs have remained undone. It is of course unnecessary to state that a library cannot be administered efficiently with professional assistance only.

Since this is the last report that I shall render I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the privilege of being entrusted with the care and administration of these collections. Seven of my fifteen years were devoted to Professor Smith's collection only (on a half-time basis, the rest of my time being apportioned to teaching in the School of Library Service). This was the period when Professor Smith was still at the height of his powers, when he made almost daily visits to his Library and gave to me freely and graciously of his knowledge - history of mathematics, history of art, history of bookmaking - as well as a continual example of how to enjoy the good life. With this great master and teacher I travelled the paths and by-paths of the joy of book collecting, through the perusal with him of countless dealers' catalogues, contact with New York firms, and finally by a delightful bibliographic tour of Paris where he introduced me to many a rich and quaint

book shop he had known and patronized from his student days and on down the many years of his collecting activity. Surely no greater privilege, professional and personal, has ever been the fortune of a librarian than to be under the tutelage of that great and learned man. I can do no less, as I mark the end of my trusteeship of his beloved library, than to acknowledge my everlasting gratitude to him. His enthusiasm for and knowledge of books will never cease to be an inspiration. A truly great teacher, he changed the course of many an admiring student's life, but to none more than mine.

It was also granted to me to become acquainted with Mr. Plimpton and Mr. Dale. Both these men had the gift of transmitting the joy of book collecting and inspiring a librarian to study and to love the treasures they had so fondly and wisely gathered.

If this seems a very personal report, it is only because I always felt that I had a very personal duty to discharge to these three fine men who had expressed their admiration and respect for Columbia by donating to it their greatest treasures. I trust that my feeling of personal trusteeship has made me no less loyal to the institution.

As I close this report I wish, therefore, to thank the University for the fifteen richest years of my life.

Respectfully submitted,

Bertha M. Frick
Curator, Plimpton, Smith
and Dale Libraries

July 1, 1946

BMF:AQC

C O P Y

Plimpton, Smith and Dale. July 1946

Books in use 79
Mss. in use 65

The month of July has seen a marked increase over last month in the use of both books and manuscripts in the collections.

Prof. Robert W. Mitchner, a scholar of Middle English from the University of Indiana, has been a daily reader, working on our largest manuscript: the De Proprietatibus Rerum of Bartholomaeus Anglicus in the English translation of John of Trevisa (Pl. ms. 263). Prof. Mitchner is preparing an edition and is employing our manuscript, the only one of the work to be found in this country, as an important basis for his text.

A comparatively unexplored mine of source material has been tapped by Mr. Otis Fellows of the French Dept., who has begun work on some of the autograph letters in the Smith collection. Mr. Fellows, whose field is 18th century French, expressed great enthusiasm over certain letters of Voltaire, Dalembert, Carnot and others, and has turned up some apparently rare unedited material which he plans to study in collaboration with Prof. Norman Torrey.

Our calligraphy collection has been a frequent object of study by Mr. Donald A. Shelley of the New York Historical Society. Mr. Shelley, whose interest is in Pennsylvania Dutch origins and culture, found our Dutch and German writing books a distinct aid in his researches.

Prof. Nathan Lazar of Teachers College spent several days studying the early use of the abacus as explained in certain volumes of the Smith collection, while our early English grammars have again seen considerable use by several graduate students.

Material in all the collections has been in constant demand by Miss Frick for her course in the History of Books and Printing, while on one occasion Dr. Lehmann-Haupt brought in his class to study our paleographical exhibits.

On July 3, Miss Marcelline Simkin commenced work as clerical assistant. Aside from her usual duties, Miss Simkin has been able to make a distinct contribution by compiling a short-title card index of the 1000-odd documents in the Smith collection. These documents, mostly in French and dating from the 11th to the 19th century, though probably furnishing important data on economic history, particularly that of the 15th-18th century, had never before been listed and made available for public use. This Miss Simkin has now done, working from descriptive notes which Dr. Smith had appended to each document. It is to be hoped that this new card file of the documents will be called to the attention of both the History and French Departments.

C O P Y

The cataloging of the manuscripts, though somewhat retarded over last month, owing to the increased duties and responsibilities of the Acting Curator, has nevertheless progressed satisfactorily, and will certainly be completed within the next two or three weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Curator

August 5, 1946.